

August 30, 2003

California Department of Water Resources
Division of planning
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Subject: Bulletin 160 Remarks

Gentlemen and Ladies:

Much of the Bulletin 160 process is to iron out differences between competing interests. This is laudable and should produce a useful document with a minimum of litigation. Unfortunately, many groups use litigation as a funding source and often such groups use litigation as a facist method to impose a minority will upon the majority as an end in itself. While these groups are competing, they are apt to miss elements which should be included. Thus, the extended review can function to bring these missed elements to the fore. I am therefore using a shotgun approach to my remarks without particular weight as I put them down now and at the meeting.

Conservation.

This is often what other people should do. I am going to concentrate on what the State can do to take the lead.

Conservation has also become a buzzword for cultists who are long on fuzzy but sort on specifics, having of course subdued their own thinking processes to those of their cult.

Urban conservation currently seems concentrating on low flow toilets. This may be laudable, but over the time of this Plan, redundant. Toilets will, in the future, not be installed with bolts, but with zippers.

The major usage of urban water is in landscaping.

Remember that the over a million who live in mobile home parks may increase as there are more retirees and the middle class shrinks. These facilities use half the water of other urban areas for computational reference.

Water efficient plantings recommendations put out by DWR should be coordinated with CDF fire wise plantings as fire water and post fire water consumption is a secondary impact.

There are native turfs which us up to one sixth the water of Bermuda, but they are slow growing of course.

These should not be used of course on football fields, but are great for office park viewsheds and the State should be the leader in their installation

These turfs will meet opposition by the landscape industry, but with the state taking the lead and getting other agencies to go along they will be grown. As to gardeners,

lawnmower sales and divorces as women reevaluate male necessity in a slow turf growing era, that is another matter.

Salt grass has ability to volatilize Se as an aside here lest I forget to comment on water quality issues.

AB325 is a law with no teeth and should be equipped with carrots and sticks.

water efficiency in landscape .

Ag Conservation: I differentiate between farmers who utilize the soil and agribusinessmen who utilize the taxpayer. I do this arbitrarily, but think this differentiation can help show that all ag is not similar.

A druid tenet is that since ag uses most water, it follows that it is the most wasteful.

One might assume that the reverse is true, that even a minor increase in efficiency can result in thousands of dollars of savings. Changing from cotton to tofu may not be all that desirable.

Often ag is opposed to local urban conservation.

Conservation pricing requires meters

Farmers may see that opposition is shortsighted regarding assuredness of availability,

But agribusiness is dependent of immediate profits and subsidies.

Weeds: Assume that annual grass uses .18 af annually and perennial grass .23af annually And starthistle .28 af annually, then, with an infestation of 16 million acres there is a loss of 800,000as, which is a reservoir or two.

Attempts at control on public and private lands need to be more coordinated to stop reinfestation.

An excellent example of this is the State Parks which can be, State Park System, which is a reservoir and distribution via visitor of weeds. The local park and others use weeds to fund their bureaucracy.

Pork

The Shadow Government:

With buy-in initiatives California has gained notoriety for its initiative industrial complex. Water bonds have become experiments to see if pork will float. Under the guise of being environmentally friendly propositions, funds are diverted to special interests such as developers or their front organizations and coastal kingdom parks. To promote an informed electorate, the environmental checklist summary should accompany the fiscal analysis summary on the ballots. This will not eliminate initiatives, frauds, the PCL etc; it is small but doable and necessary. The electorate has supported bonds that were not a mish mash of pork such as those that built the aqueduct.

Moving Parks from Water, Parks and Wildlife Committee.

Water is a natural resource; wildlife is a natural resource. Parks is a human service utilizing natural resources like industry and agriculture. It should be moved to schools or Human Services.

Dams

Often the concept of new storage has to do with getting a freebie, whether there is enough water available to store. Dam weight does not force water up from the ground. More concentration on watersheds as watersheds rather than a method to distribute Pork For Parks by the BDA will be necessary if the dams are to be utile.

Conversely there is the druid concept of dams being pimples on mama earth's butt. Hydropower discussion is near nonexistent. Fuel generated energy is seen to be acceptable if it occurs in the Central Valley, which one must put up with as one drives to the mountains. True some dams are outdated, but emptying debris from mining areas is not conducive to good water quality.

Dams in scenic areas are damned, but a dam in the southern desert is ok in order to move the rivers from these scenic areas to it as this is still considered cheaper for the people, who like to go to these scenic areas, than the cost of desalinization.

It should be checked to see if it would be cost effective to put spillways or overflow channels on current dams to increase the reservoir capacity. This would be especially beneficial if a drought follows a capacity filling year. If a wet year comes, then the overflow can be used to generate flushing flows. Considering the time frame for new construction should also be factored into any C/B ratio.

SJ Construction

If global warming will reduce natural snow pack storage, then artificial storage does seem in order. The CalFed ROD calls for a new dam for environmental reasons to flush and rejuvenate the San Joaquin River. Raising Friant would be cheapest as to land costs and environmental review, but construction of another dam above it should be investigated for operational flexibility and equity. This would lower the lawsuits when a reservoir is dumped for flushing and would keep the two uses separate.

Raising the dam with EWA funds would seem a proper use of these moneys and would keep the purposes separated in folks' minds.

Flood control in the small minority towns of the Central Valley is nonexistent. Agencies and their internal workings, say that it is another's responsibility or that since these occur on ephemeral streams the residents are literally up the creek. As in the Midwest, small dams for range improvement would have federal funding and be a hydrologically sound way to do a little recharge.

As previously alluded to the floods following fire are a way to watch water as well as houses flowing off to sea on film at eleven, and input into this plan by CDF should be sought,

Plans for use of the utilities' properties should be looked at, whether as easements or fee acquisitions.

Water Quality

As water is moved around and about the interties of the Cross Valley Canal, little exploration of the effects on the locals water is being considered. Are they to be sent to the camps?

As dairies are given air quality credits to leave the south coast, their impacts on both surface and ground water should be considered. Banning is a poor solution. Cattle drives of cows up the I-5 corridor seems somewhat ludicrous. Again methodologies from the Midwest should be installed.

Proper manure management can reduce the dependence on anhydrous ammonia which Results in fish kills in the SJ Valley. Being informed that there are no fish in this valley by the water quality people of the BDA, I see that a social agenda outstrips any environmental one.

When finding magic environmental bullets, such as eucalyptus to absorb Se, care that another resource is not negatively impacted should be used. Eucalyptus VOC's make Smog.

The use of artificial wetlands to volatilize boron, selenium and manure and provide habitat for waterfowl with the resulting recreational opportunities should be encouraged. They have been blocked by environmental lawyers. Nuisance suits should be challenged until they are proved worthwhile or frivolous so that there is a lessened economic incentive for them.

Privatization. When in the future this occurs or there is a probability of its occurrence, safeguards should be in place that the State does not experience an aquatic Enron.

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